

VILLAGE OF GENESEO BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

August 24th, 2026, at 5pm | Geneseo Village Building | 119 Main Street, Geneseo NY

Board Present: Mayor Chris Ivers, Deputy Mayor Marlene Hamann-Whitmore, Trustee Alex Livingston, Trustee Eddie Lee, and Trustee Keith Walters

Other Village Representative(s) Present: Clerk Treasurer Shawn Forrester

Others Present: Jim Walker, Dylan Walgate, Katherine Wiener, Barb Battaglia, Marie Shero, Louise Wadsworth, Brendan Fuhr, Mary Margaret Stallone, Deborah Farberman, Jeremy Grace, Suzanne Johnsen, Parker Johnsen, Justin Suarez, Rachel E Andrews, Kyle Scoville, Mary Schillinger-Cooke, Kim Binaghi Lee, Meg Reitz, Mary Kathryn Shanahan, Joe Shanahan & Piper Wadsworth.

Meeting Opened:

Mayor Ivers opened the meeting at 5pm and thanked everyone for coming. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Action/Discussion Items:

Minutes: The minutes from July 27, 2026, meeting were presented. *Deputy Mayor Hamann-Whitmore moved to accept the minutes as presented. Trustee Livingston seconded. After discussion the minutes were accepted as amended with ayes all.*

Deer Population/DEC:

The representative from DEC was unable to make the meeting. To be rescheduled.

Sewer Charge Concern:

James Walker was present to discuss his concerns regarding the billing of sewer usage. He stated that he believes the current process is unfair, noting that an additional \$75 charge for exceeding the water usage threshold by only 100 cubic feet was not equitable. Mr. Walker suggested that, rather than charging in large steps, the rates could increase incrementally based on usage. He also suggested establishing higher water rates for properties with greater water consumption. He continued with concern over families not being able to afford such a drastic increase. Mayor Ivers thanked him for coming and noted that the policy at the time was put in place to be as fair as possible for all residents. Mayor Ivers further noted that any change would require a Local Law.

Scarecrow Festival:

Lynn Horn requested that the Village temporarily suspend the open container law on Main and Center Streets for The Big Tree Inn, Idol Hour, Crickets and Kelly's establishments for October 2, 2026, 4:30pm to 8:30pm. Noting that only plastic containers would be allowed. There was discussion regarding whether the festival would be providing security for the festivities on Chestnut Street, security was not planned for. Ms. Horn also requested that the Bistro lights be up for the event. *The Board tabled this request opting to get input from the police department, insurance agent and the Village Attorney.*

Mural:

Justin Suarez presented the Board with his proposal for a mural on the side of Main Moon Restaurant, located at 108 Main Street. Due to time constraints, he noted that the project would be postponed until next year. Mr. Suarez discussed the grant process and expressed confidence that he would remain eligible to apply for and receive grant funding next year. He also explained the proposed mural design, noting that the mural would be a gift to the community and would include a process for community involvement. Discussion continued regarding the New York Forward project and how the proposed mural might tie into that initiative. Questions were also raised regarding the barn owl depicted in the design, as it is no longer found in the area. It was noted that the mural is not a commissioned piece and specific requests were not permitted. There was much discussion regarding the Village Code and whether the Planning Board had the authority to approve the project. It was noted that the guidance from the Village attorney indicated that the Village Board was allowed to designate the Planning Board as the approving authority. *Deputy Mayor Hamann-Whitmore moved to approve the mural concept. Trustee Livingston seconded.* Discussion continued with timelines, the possibility of a current mural cancellation and how the mural would be preserved. *With no further discussion the motion carried with ayes from all.*

Tent Request:

Jeremy Grace requested that tents be allowed for the E Pluribus Music Festival on September 12, 2026. He indicated that there would be 3 tents and would like them to be installed on Friday the 11th and taken down on Monday the 14th. *Deputy Mayor Hamann-Whitmore moved to approve the tent installation. Trustee Livingston seconded.* It was noted the Village would not be responsible for the tents. *With no further discussion the motion carried with ayes from all.*

Chestnut Street Closure:

Piper Wadsworth presented the Board with a request to close Chestnut Street from 1:30p to 8pm on September 19, 2026, for the Cat Tour Fundraiser for Hearthside Cats. There was discussion regarding what the Cat Tour involved and

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what events/vendors would be on Chestnut Street. *Mayor Hamann-Whitmore moved to approve the request to close Chestnut Street. Trustee Livingston seconded. With no further discussion the motion carried with ayes from all.*

Pedestrian & Traffic Safety Committee:

Mayor Ivers updated the Board about a recent meeting with the Crossett Road residents. *Mayor Hamann-Whitmore moved to install 3 movable speed humps starting on Crossett Road to be moved to other Village Streets as a demonstration. Trustee Livingston seconded.* There was considerable discussion regarding clarity on speed humps, cushions or speed bumps. The discussion continued with time frame, weather, the schedule to move the humps as well as which streets should be included. *It was decided that the Pedestrian & Traffic Safety Committee would be tasked with developing a timetable for the scheduling of the humps and the humps would be ordered within 30 days. With no further discussion the motion carried with ayes from all.*

Meg Reitz was present to update the Board on the recent activities of the Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee. She provided an update on the subcommittee that had applied for grant funding for sidewalks along 20A. Ms. Reitz explained that the Committee would like to formalize its structure and membership, provide public agendas, meeting minutes, and hold at least two open public meetings each year. She also reviewed the Committee's goals and priorities, noting the importance of pursuing grant funding, incorporating strategic planning and available resources, and developing recommendations for potential updates to the Village Code. It was further noted that the Committee was seeking feedback from the Board regarding a document presented at the previous Board meeting. The Committee would also like to publish its findings and continue its work on safe routes to school and improving safe pedestrian crossings. Discussion continued with Parks and Trail Towns Grants offered for traffic calming.

NYSDOT Undertaking Resolution:

Mayor Ivers explained that the Village's current Undertaking with The State Department of Transportation was not complete and he presented the following resolution;

UNDERTAKING For the benefit of

The New York State Department of Transportation

In connection with work affecting state highways

WHEREAS, the undersigned Village of Geneseo Municipality, County, Town, City or Village, or any agency of the federal government, hereinafter referred to as "Permittee") from time to time receives permits from the New York State Department of Transportation (hereinafter referred to as the "NYSDOT") and otherwise conducts activities and operations upon highways and/or within right-of-way controlled by the State of New York for such purposes as the obstruction, installation, construction, maintenance and/or operation of facilities; and

WHEREAS, Permittee's access and operation upon state right-of-way is conditioned upon compliance with Highway Law Sections 52, 103, 203 and/or 234, including the conditions that Permittee assume all responsibility for (a) the temporary control of all modes of traffic (including motorized and non-motorized travel) affected by Permittee's operations, (b) complete restoration of state facilities to their condition prior to permitted use or activity, and (c) all claims, damages, losses and expenses,

NOW, THEREFORE, in relation to all operations and/or actions undertaken within state right-of-way, Permittee hereby agrees to the following terms and conditions:

1. Permit Applications. *Excepting only activities undertaken to protect public safety because of emergency conditions or incidents, Permittee shall provide timely written notice to NYSDOT of operations or activities affecting state right-of-way. Under normal circumstances, a minimum of five business days notice shall be provided. Notification of emergency activities shall be provided to NYSDOT as soon as practicable after the activity. The Permittee shall apply for project-specific permits for activities not allowed under any existing annual permit. Such application shall identify proposed project locations, desired dates/hours, proposed work/activities, traffic control, and site restoration*

2. Applicable Rules, Regulations & Conditions. *Permittee shall comply with all of the laws, rules and regulations applicable to construction, maintenance activities and operations and shall further comply with such terms and conditions that may be imposed by NYSDOT in connection with permitted activity or operations. Temporary Traffic Control, highway safety appurtenances, and restoration of state facilities shall be completed in accordance with NYSDOT regulations and standards.*

3. Site Restoration. *Permittee shall, at its own expense, promptly complete the work allowed under each permit and, within a reasonable time, restore State property damaged by its work/activities to substantially the same or equivalent condition as existed before such work was begun as determined by the Commissioner or his/her designee. In the event that the Permittee fails to so restore damaged State property within what the Commissioner deems to be a reasonable time, the Commissioner, after giving written notice to the Permittee, may restore the property to substantially the same or equivalent condition as existed before the Permittee's work/activities, in which case, Permittee agrees to reimburse the reasonable expenses in connection therewith.*

4. Payment & Release of Liens. *Permittee shall be responsible for the payment of all costs and materials relating to its work in the public right-of-way, and agrees to defend and save harmless*

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NYSDOT against any and all lien claims made by persons supplying services or materials to Permittee in connection with Permittee's work.

5. Indemnity. *In addition to the protection afforded to NYSDOT under any available insurance, NYSDOT shall not be liable for any damage or injury to the Permittee, its agents, employees, or to any other person, or to any property, occurring on the site or in any way associated with Permittee's activities or operations, whether undertaken by Permittee's own forces or by contractors or other agents working on Permittee's behalf. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Permittee agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the State of New York, NYSDOT, and their agents from and against all claims, damages, losses and expenses, including but not limited to, claims for personal injuries, property damage, wrongful death, and/or environmental claims and attorney fees arising out of any such claim, that are in any way associated with the Permittee's, activities or operations under any and all permits issued using this Undertaking.*

FURTHERMORE, Permittee hereby warrants that the obligations of this Undertaking are backed by the full faith and credit of Permittee. Permittee may insure or bond any of the obligations set forth herein, or may rely upon self-insurance, budgeted funds, or funds for general operations.

This Undertaking shall be applicable to all permitted activities and operations undertaken after the date of execution and work initiated while this Undertaking is in effect. This Undertaking may be revoked by the Permittee or rejected by NYSDOT upon thirty days written notice but will continue to apply to all permitted activities/operations that were permitted by virtue of this Undertaking. Unless terminated for the purpose of future activities/operations, this Undertaking shall have a term of twenty (20) years and shall be kept on file to facilitate the issuance of future permits to which it will apply.

Deputy Mayor Hammon-Whitmore moved to adopt the Resolution. Trustee Livingston seconded. The Resolution was carried with Ayes from all.

SUNY Request:

The request from SUNY Geneseo to use the Village Park on October 17, 2026, 12:30pm to 3pm, for a community celebration event to kick off SUNY Geneseo President Treadwell's inauguration. With access to the park at 8am to set up and permission for 3-6 tents. The request continued with permission to hang pole banners promoting the inauguration for one month prior to the inauguration, remain up through October 23, 2026. *Deputy Mayor Hamann-Whitmore moved to approve the SUNY requests Trustee Livingston seconded. With no further discussion the motion carried with ayes from all.*

Energy Enterprises Gas Bid Selection:

The recommendation from Energy Enterprises to select Empire Natural Gas for the period of September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027. *Deputy Mayor Hamann-Whitmore moved to approve the selection of Empire Natural Gas. Trustee Livingston seconded. With a short discussion regarding the price, the motion carried with ayes from all.*

Approval of Abstract #3:

Deputy Mayor Hamann-Whitmore reviewed and presented the August 2026 Vouchers for approval in the following amounts:

- General Fund: \$195,220.63
- Water Fund: \$ 75,785.67
- Sewer Fund: \$ 17,115.61
- Capital Projects: \$392,565.44
- Grand Total: \$680,687.35

Deputy Mayor Hamann-Whitmore moved to approve Abstract #3 of 2026-2027, for \$680,687.35. Trustee Walters seconded. After brief discussion regarding the abstract was approved with ayes from all.

Mayor Updates:

Second & Oak Streets: Mayor Ivers informed the Board that the Second and Oak Streets Project was progressing and biweekly meetings were being held for all key shareholders.

Cannabis Agreement with Town of Geneseo: Mayor Ivers informed the Board that the Village had received its first tax revenue check from the sale of cannabis and because there was no agreement with the Town they automatically received 50% of the revenue. There was discussion regarding the fairness of the split. *It was decided that Mayor Ivers would reach out to the Town to begin discussions on creating an agreement.*

RFQ Main Street: Mayor Ivers updated the Board that the RFQ's for the project would be completed soon and posted. The Village would need to hire a firm to handle. There was discussion regarding possible other funding.

Mayor Ivers reminded the Board of the next Meeting 9/14/2026.

Board Updates/Information:

Police Department: Chief Osganian's report was submitted. Deputy Mayor Hammon-Whitmore noted that the department had received a grant from the Traffic Safety Committee of \$12,489. She continued with Parking Attendant interviews had been held and there was a promising candidate.

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Department of Public Works: Superintendent Quinlan's report was submitted.

Code Office: CEO Wadsworth's report was submitted.

Fire Department: Nothing to report

Executive Session: *Trustee Lee moved to enter executive session at 6:27pm to discuss Employment Matters, the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation and proposed, pending or current litigation. Deputy Mayor Hamann-Whitmore seconded the motion, and the Board entered into an executive session. Deputy Mayor Hamann-Whitmore moved to come out of executive session at 6:52pm. Trustee Livingston seconded. The motion passed with ayes from all. It was noted that no action was taken.*

Adjourn: *Trustee Livingston moved to close the meeting at 6:52pm. Deputy Mayor Hamann-Whitmore seconded. With no further discussion the meeting was closed with ayes from all.*

*Respectfully,
Shawn Forrester
Clerk Treasurer*